

# Domestic Geographic Name Report

1 Use this form to recommend a feature name or to suggest a name change.

2. For features on Federal lands, coordinate requests with the agency (U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) For the administrative area in which the land is located.

3. On the reverse side of this form give information on the local usage and authority for recommended name.

4. For more information about the Geographic Names Information System or the National Gazetteer Program, contact the U.S. Board on Geographic Names at 703-648-4544..

5. Return this form to:

Executive Secretary for Domestic  
Geographic Names  
U.S. Geological Survey  
523 National Center  
Reston, VA 22092

## Action Requested

Proposed New Name:   X  

Application Change:       

Name Change:       

Other:       

**Recommended Name:** Mount Nant'ina

**State:** Alaska

**County or Equivalent:** Kenai Peninsula Borough

**Administrative Area:** Chugach National Forest

## Specific Area Covered:

Latitude: 60.367288 N Longitude: -149.574429 W (peak, WGS 84)

Section(s) 11 Township(s) 03N Range(s) 02W Meridian Seward Elevation 5020 ft

**Type of Feature** (stream, mountain, populated place, etc.): Mountain

**Is the feature identified (including other names), in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)?**

Yes    No   X   Unknown        If Yes, how is it listed?

**Description of feature (physical shape, length, width, direction of flow, etc.):**

The peak is 5020 ft tall (reported by the proposer as 5013 ft). The mountain rises from the south shore of Kenai Lake, with the peak situated approximately 1.15 miles south of the shoreline. The mountain is located within Chugach National Forest.

USGS Seward B-7, 1:63,360, 1960

**Maps and other sources using recommended name (including scale and date)**

**Other Name (Variants)**

"Mount Kenai" previously used by the Mountaineering Club of Alaska

**Maps and other sources using other name or application (including scale and date)**

*Scree*, September 2019, Mountaineering Club of Alaska

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**Name information such as origin, meaning of the recommended name, historical significance, biographic data (if commemorative), nature of usage or application, or any other pertinent information:**

From the proposal: "This summit is situated between the summits of "Bone" and "Sleeping Sister." It has an elevation of 5013 ft. and overlooks Kenai Lake. My reason for naming this summit is for the purpose of education. I am the facilitator of many education programs on and around Kenai Lake and would like to be able to call the mountain by a name. I feel that naming the mountain in the language of those who previously resided here, we can acknowledge this land as the land of the Dena'ina. The name comes from the Dena'ina Language, which was the language of the tribes that resided in that area. The word Nant'ina means *Wild Man*."

James Kari communicated Jan. 14, 2021 "the word is in 2007, 2013 *Den.topical Dict.* p. 276

bogeyman, "woodsman," "stick man"

nant'ina 'the one that steals us'

also

nch'e'eni (U) 'the one that is sensed'

shtutnalyashna (O.L.) 'ones that take us away'

It is a well-known term. nothing offensive.

there is no recorded Den. name for that mountain on Kenai Lake"

Steve Gruhn of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska has commented that the MCA has used the name "Mount Kenai" for the peak in question and labeled it as such in the September 2019 issue of *Scree*.

Mr. Gruhn also pointed out that "Nantina Point" is an unofficial name already in use for a peak in the Eagle River drainage, approximately 60 miles N of the peak in question. The name Nantina Point is used in the November 1993, May 2001, December 2008, February 2018, August 2018, and October 2020 issues of *Scree*, as well as the 2000 Chugach State Park Map by Imus Geographics, the 2011 American Alpine Journal, and the 2014 National Geographic/Trails Illustrated Chugach State Park Anchorage Map.

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**Is the recommended name in local usage?** Yes ☐ No ☒ If Yes, approximately how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Is there local opposition to, or conflict with the recommended name (as located)?**

Kenaitze Indian Tribe – released a statement 03/09/2021 opposing the proposal: "We thank you for initiating Tribal consultation on the use of Dena'ina language for a peak within the customary lands of the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina. The Kenaitze Indian Tribe has received proposal 3050-3 for naming a peak within the Chugach range Mount Nant'ina. The Kenaitze Indian Tribe is strongly opposed to the use of the Nant'ina as a place name. In the Dena'ina Dictionary, the term is glossed as "bogeyman." This two-word definition does not properly contextualize the true meaning and use for Nant'ina, and is in no way appropriate for use in naming this peak. The term Nant'ina has a long history of use to describe extremely evil or horrific events. To this day, it is still used to describe horrors that take place. The origins of this term go back thousands of years and is the term that describes an evil spirit that will destroy the earth. Nant'ina is a reference to the being/spirit that Naq'eltani fights. Along with this physical context of destruction, the term is also used to describe horrible things that destroy people or rob them of their humanity. The forced capture of children and the effects of alcohol and drug addiction are two examples of its use in the last 50 years. In 1958 the Bureau of Indian Affairs passed the Indian Adoption Project, which allowed the government to step in and remove approximately one-third of Indigenous children from their homes in order to adopt the children out to white families from 1958 to 1967. Similarly, Canada also swept children away into the 1980s and unofficially still occurs to this day. The general term for these adoptions through the U.S. and Canada is the "60's Scoop". It was a permanent child removal movement beyond the well-known residential and boarding schools, which allowed the children to come home at the end of their schooling. The Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina use Nant'ina as a name for the government workers that came to take children away. Not all children found their way back home. It has been likened to the type of spirit that enters the body in relation to drugs and alcohol addiction that robs the person of who they are. It is a spirit that transforms things for physical and spiritual destruction. The term Nant'ina is not a word we would name anything unless it was extremely evil. Nant'ina is generally not spoken out loud outside of very specific contexts because of the evil or calamity it references and should not be used to name this peak."

Qutekcak Native Tribe – released a statement 03/04/2021 opposing the proposal: "QUTEKCAK NATIVE TRIBE strongly **objects** to naming a Mountain Mount Nant'ina. Mr. Joseph Tadie is not an Alaska resident, the name of **Nant'ina** isn't a word we want to name our mountain.

In conjunction with the findings of the Kenaitze Tribe: "The term for Nat'ina is extremely evil, to the point it is not spoken out loud outside of very specific contexts. It is a reference to the being/spirit that Naq' eltani fights. It has been likened to the type of spirit that enters the body in relation to drugs and alcohol addiction and robs the person of who they are. It is a spirit that transforms things for evil physical and spiritual destruction." Furthermore, an elder of the tribe expressed that that's what they called OCS workers in the '60-'70s when they took children away from their families to boarding schools and adoption in the lower 48. QNT feels that if the mountain should be named, the people of Alaska should be the ones to name a nameless mountain in Alaska. Especially our children! All schools should be notified for this competition. We will all be proud when this comes through ... knowing the name comes from the state and from our children. Give us something to be proud of and remembered by."

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**For proposed new name, please provide evidence that feature is unnamed:**

N/A

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**Additional Information:**

Joseph Tadie (proposer)

Interested Parties:

Qutekcak Native Tribe – replied 03/04/2021: See "local opposition" section above.

Mountaineering Club of Alaska – replied 03.12.2021: "The members of the MCA's Geographic Names Committee are divided on the proposal to name the peak Mount Nant'ina. Consequently, we neither endorse nor oppose the proposal."

Alaska Native Language Center

James Kari – commented 02.18.2021 "I support the name Nant'ina for the name at Kenai Lake"

U. S. Forest Service – Francisco B. Sanchez, District Ranger, Seward Ranger District, replied 03.31.2021: "I am writing today to both the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and the Qutekcak Native Tribe. I have received copies of your letters to the State of Alaska, strongly opposing a no-name peak within the Seward Ranger District, wanting to name this peak *Mount Nant'ina*. I support both tribes in opposing this new name to this peak. Nant'ina is generally not "spoken out loud outside of very specific contexts because of the evil or calamity it references." I do not support one of our mountain peaks being named after an evil spirit/being. As the district ranger for the Seward Ranger District, I fully support both tribes in NOT supporting this proposed name change. Thank you, fbs~~."

David E. Schmid, Regional Forester, USFS Alaska Region, replied 04.05.2021: "The U.S. Forest Service received your request for comment on a new geographic name proposal within the Chugach National Forest. This proposal submits the name Mount Nant'ina for an unnamed mountain peak on the Kenai Peninsula. This 5,020-foot peak is about 17 miles north of Seward, AK, and three miles west of Sleeping Sister Mountain along the southern shore of Kenai Lake. The U.S. Forest Service confirms that this mountain has no official name. Alaska Historical Commission geographic name guidelines and U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) policy cite present-day local usage or preference for a geographic name as the underlying principle for establishing official geographic names. This proposal provides no evidence of the existing use of this name or local preference for the name. The proposer states a personal desire to "be able to call the mountain by a name." State guidelines and BGN policy clearly state that this is an insufficient reason to name a feature. The State guidelines specify: "A feature named by the applicant is not considered local usage, even when the applicant has called the feature by that name for a number of years." State guidelines recommend that proposed Alaska Native names be in existing or prior common local use and documented. This proposal provides no evidence that *Nant'ina* has been used for this peak. BGN Tribal Geographic Names policy states that the BGN will "be cognizant and respectful of the historical, cultural, and spiritual relationships that Tribes have with the American landscape." The US Forest Service understands that local Tribes object to this proposal citing inappropriate use of the Dena'ina word *Nant'ina*. Furthermore, the inappropriate and objectionable nature of the proposed name is at odds with BGN Derogatory and Offensive Names Policy, which states, "The BGN will not make

official for Federal use a locally used name that is determined by the BGN to be offensive to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group." This proposal shows little regard for local Tribes, their names, and their ancestral homeland, given that no research or outreach was done with tribes in the area to assure an appropriate interpretation/translation of the proposed name. For these reasons, the US Forest Service objects to the Mount Nant'ina proposal."

Peninsula Clarion

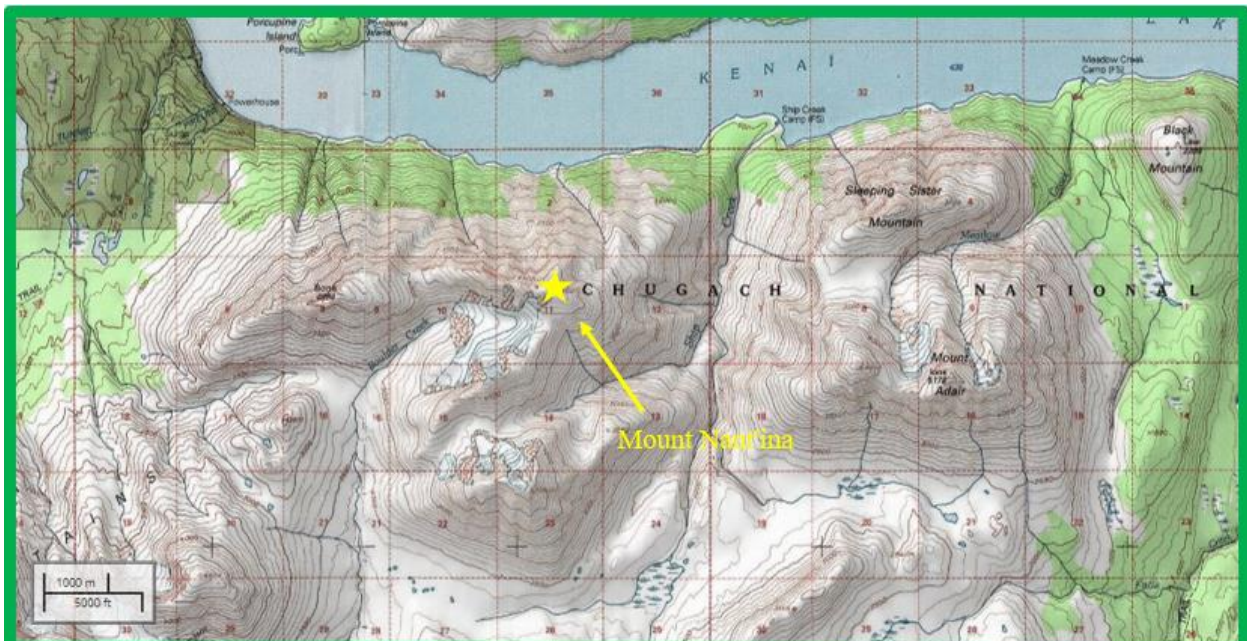
Native Village of Eklutna

Kenaitze Indian Tribe – replied 03.09.2021: See "local opposition" section above.

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Helen MacLean – returned comments on 02.13.2021 – Did not give a translation, but referred to Kari's Dena'ina dictionary; stated, "We should honor the ways of the local dialect."

Copy submitted by: Name (first, M.I., last)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Joseph Tadie			11/26/20
Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)		
	417 Liberty Street, Winona, MN 55987		
Copy Prepared by (if other than above)	Title	Phone (day)	Date
Judith E. Bittner	SHPO	(907) 269-8700	
Company or Agency	Address (city, State, and Zip)		
Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Office of History and Archaeology	550 West 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310, Anchorage, AK 99501-3565		
Authority for Recommended Name:	Mailing Address and Telephone	Occupation	Years in Area



Proposal: Mount Nant'ina

